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スカイブルー

第1話 空色エンカウンター

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BROUGHT TO YOU BY
Japanzai

WE'VE MANAGED TO COMMUNICATE IN THIS FASHION SO MANY TIMES NOW,
HOW ABOUT YOU TRY SAYING SOMETHING ONCE IN A WHILE?
BUT I STILL END UP BEING THE ONLY ONE TALKING, BE IT VERBALLY OR PHYSICALLY.
SEEMS YOU CAN'T DO IT PHYSICALLY
SO AT LEAST VERBALLY...
... HOW ABOUT YOU GET THE FUCK OFF ME FIRST!

第11話 王紅玉(2)
Chapter 11: Oukougyoku (2)

CRAP ...
KAZAMI... HUH...
ANE-SAN IS...
CLR
Shit!

KEEP OUT KEEP

HEY! HEY, YOU!
YOU CAN'T JUST WALK IN HERE LIKE THAT!

!

.....
POLICE

ARE YOU LIS-TEN-ING?
HEY!

Group of high school students fall unconscious, are taken to hospital.

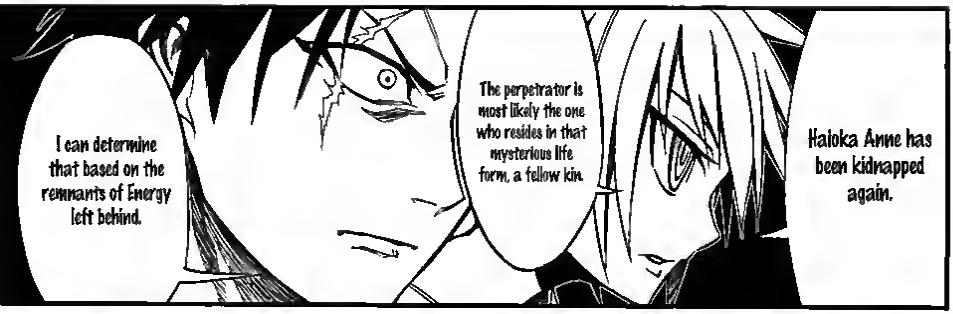
Witness described

"A Red Girl"

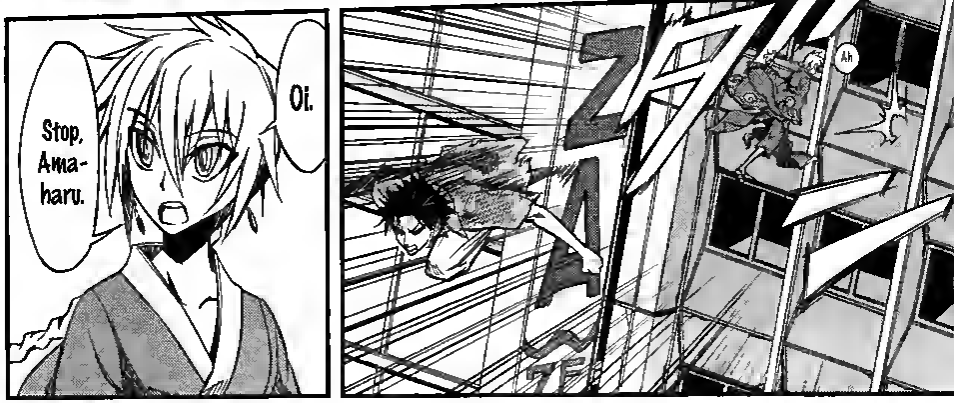
In-store CCTV out of order

One female student's whereabouts remain unknown.

An employee and one citizen dead.

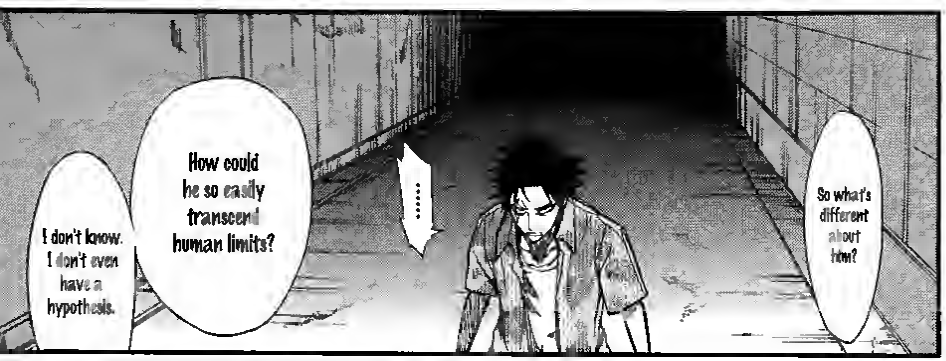

I can determine that based on the remnants of Energy left behind.
The perpetrator is most likely the one who resides in that mysterious life form, a fellow kin.
Haioka Anne has been kidnapped again.

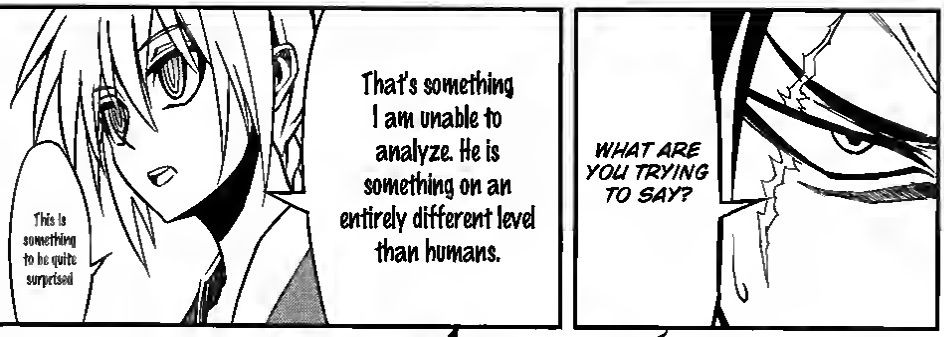
Wait.
Where do you think you're going?

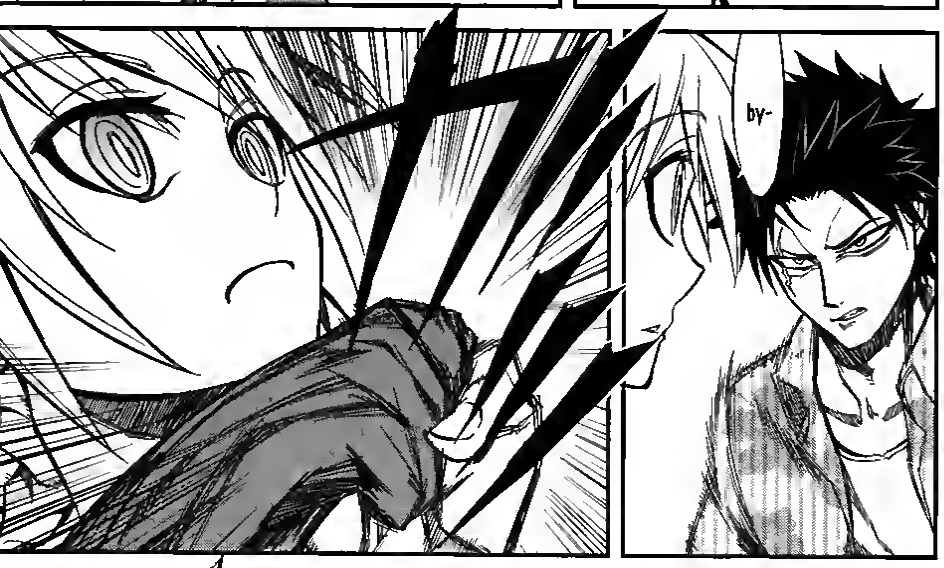

Oi.
Stop, Amaharu.
ZA
Ah

!?
OUCH
That was a complete failure.
It's because you're not composed that these things happen.
... Shut up!

that thing's turned out like this!!
It's because you got in the way that time
I tried analyzing his blood from samples I found on the ground.
.....
Huff
Huff
Genetically, that thing is no different from any other person. He should be a regular human.
The composition of plasma and structure of erythrocytes
were both normal
Do you get it, Amaharu?


So what's different about him?
.....
How could he so easily transcend human limits?
I don't know. I don't even have a hypothesis.


This is something to be quite surprised
That's something I am unable to analyze. He is something on an entirely different level than humans.
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?


by-

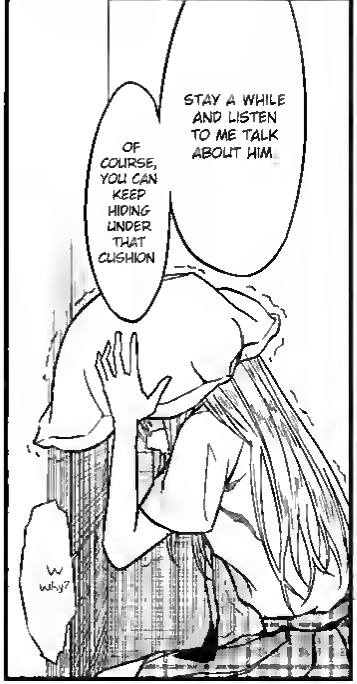
are you trying to say?
the fuck
what
Like I said,

Got it?
Don't talk about that fucker
like he's some hot shit
right in front of my face, all right!?
How about we give him the designation "Surprise! The (unique) life form"?
So what?
Huh?
Why is your boiling point so unusually low today?
What importance does that (unique) life form have to you?

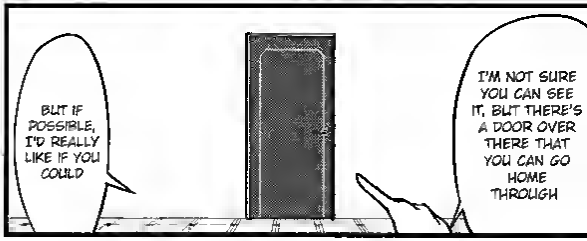
If we were to enter combat against that Energy-reinforced life form,
Calm down, Amaharu.
the chances of being victorious are
Zero.

UH...
HAIOKA-SA-
.....
Hey!
Hey! You'd better not be ignoring Kougyoku here!
Ruby-chan, control your power!
I'll stab you!
HA HA..
BUM-MER

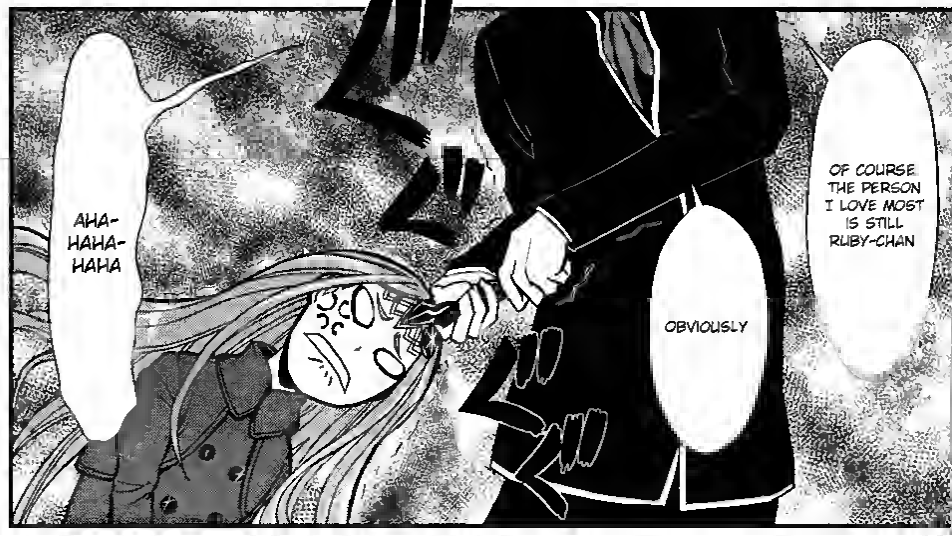
AH!
THAT'S RIGHT, THE APPARE-KUN YOU KNOW WELL!
WE'RE ACTUALLY FRIENDS
!
I'VE PROBABLY NEVER BEEN SO CAUTIOUS WITH A FIRST IMPRESSION SINCE I MET APPARE-KUN.
YOU'RE LYING!
WELL, I GUESS YOU WOULDN'T TRUST ME NOW THOUGH.
.....
SEE, I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU BECAUSE RECENTLY I'VE BEEN WANTING TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT APPARE-KUN.
HAH AHA ...
.....


STAY A WHILE AND LISTEN TO ME TALK ABOUT HIM
OF COURSE, YOU CAN KEEP HIDING UNDER THAT CUSHION
W wh-y?

I HAVE NO INTENTIONS OF HARMING YOU.
IF YOU'RE STILL AGAINST IT, OVER THERE IS A...


I'M NOT SURE YOU CAN SEE IT, BUT THERE'S A DOOR OVER THERE THAT YOU CAN GO HOME THROUGH
BUT IF POSSIBLE, I'D REALLY LIKE IF YOU COULD

I GUESS IT'S SOMETHING LIKE WANTING SOMEONE TO HEAR YOU TALK ABOUT SOMEONE YOU LOVE?
AND THAT WAY I WAS ALSO HOPING THAT WE'D BE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE ON THE SAME LEVEL


OF COURSE THE PERSON I LOVE MOST IS STILL RUBY-CHAN
OBVIOUSLY
AHA-HAHA-HAHA

WHERE SHOULD WE BEGIN?
I GUESS ALL THE WAY BACK AT THE START?
.....
THE FIRST TIME I SAW APPARE-KUN...
THE LAST TIME I SAW THAT FUCKER...
AN UN-BELIEV-ABLY
RED MOON
HUNG IN THE NIGHT SKY.

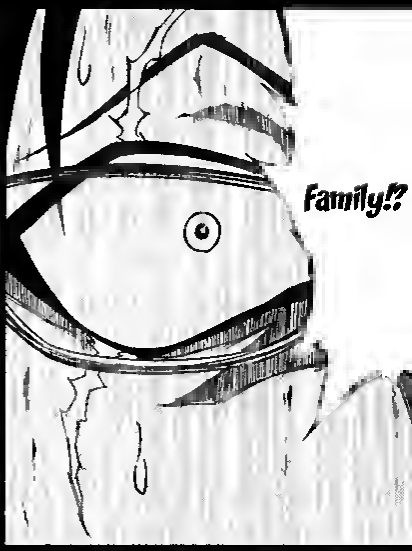
WHAT THE HELL...
NO FUCK-ING WAY.
AH! YOU'RE AWAKE!
WHAT THE HECK IS THAT...
IS THAT'S
THE ACTUAL MOON

I REMEMBER NOW!
WHEN I WAS LEAVING THROUGH THE SCHOOL GATES, HE WAS THERE...
GET OUTTA MY SIGHT!
NO, NO, HOW ABOUT YOU COME ON UP INSTEAD?
THE MAIN ENTRANCE SHOULD STILL BE UNLOCKED
Don't fuck with me!
Where are we!?
Whose house is this!?
WHO...
CAN'T YOU SEE THAT IT'S MY HOUSE?
!!?

OUR ROYAL FAMILY OF FOUR LIVES IN A 5-YEAR-OLD SINGLE-STORY HOUSE.
AHAH AHA
YEAH, CASTLES ARE A BIT OUT-OF-FASHION THESE DAYS.

You ...
You live in a house!?

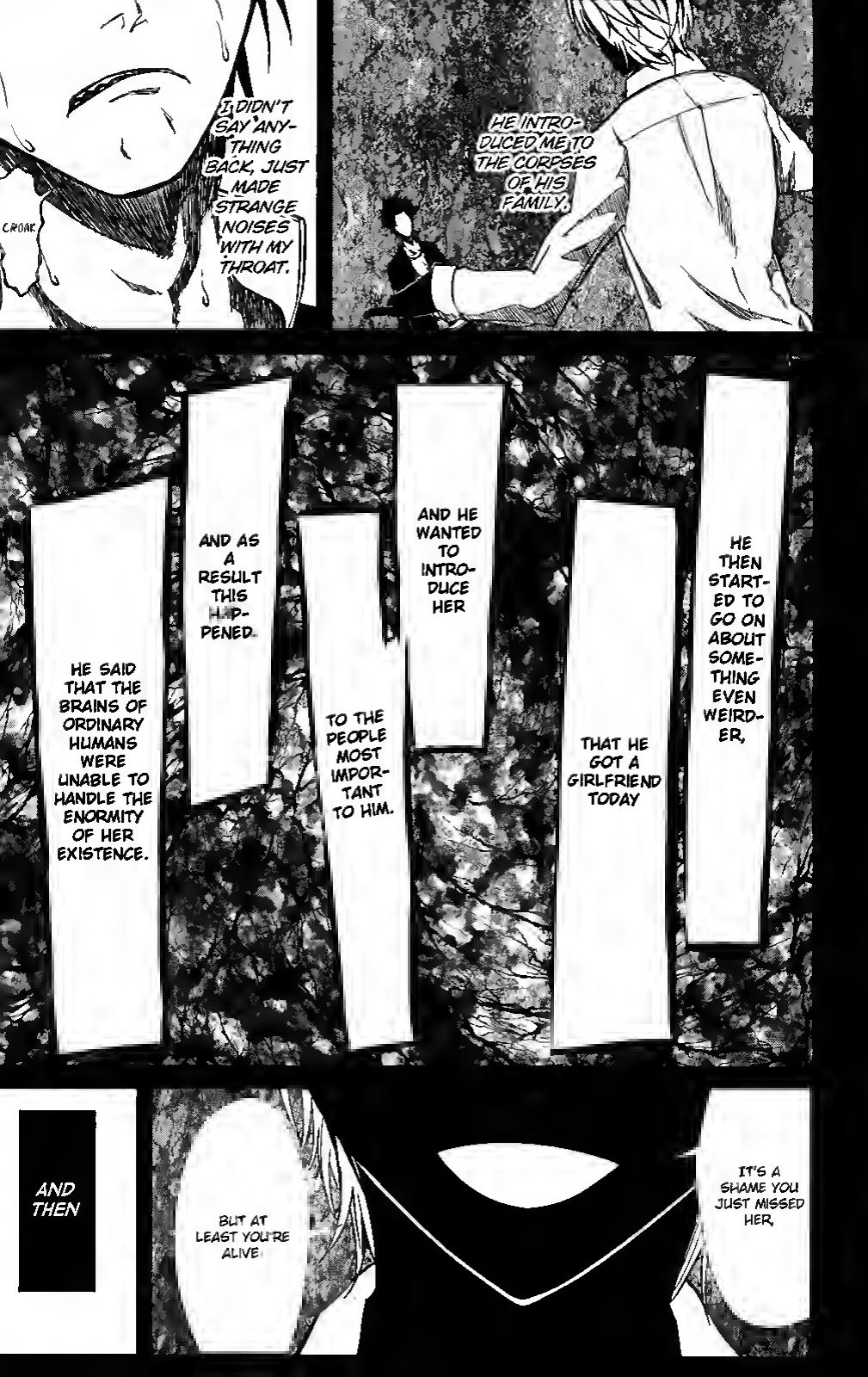
COME IN.
I'LL GET SOME TEA AND SNACKS READY.
OH, THAT'S RIGHT I WAS JUST GOING TO ASK YOU FOR SOME ADVICE ABOUT THEM.

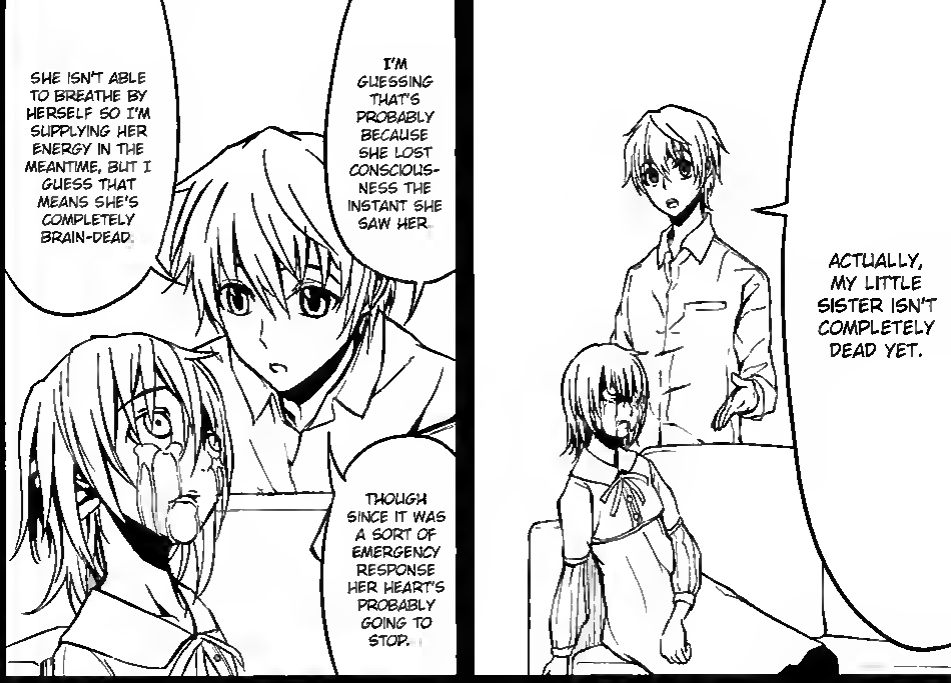

Family!?

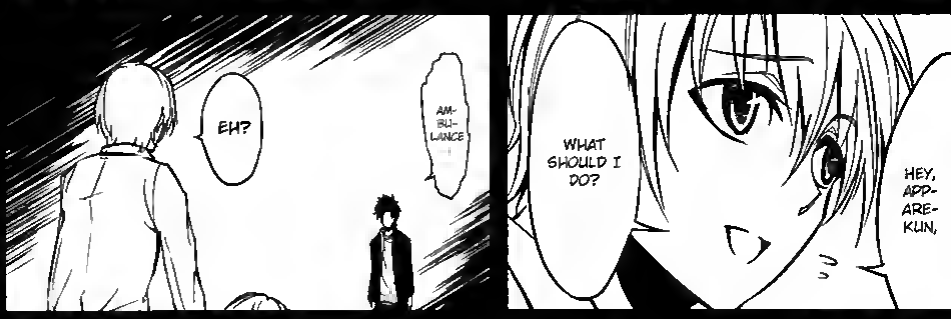
Iooo
Wha ...

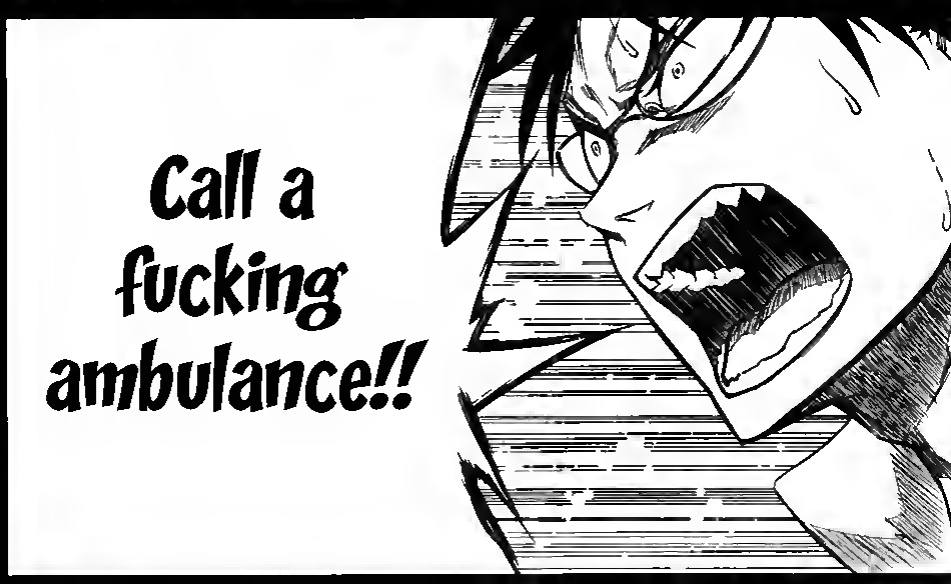
BECAUSE I WAS TAKEN COMPLETELY BY SURPRISE.
YOU CAN USE THOSE SLIPPERS RIGHT THERE.
COME ON IN.
I STAYED QUIET AND PLAYED ALONG
I DON'T MEAN JUST SUPERFICIALLY,
BUT IN THE SENSE OF "AS A HUMAN".
AH! I CAN ALSO GET YOU CALPIS IF YOU WANT.
DO YOU HAVE A PREFERENCE BETWEEN COFFEE OR TEA?
IS A PART OF HIM ALSO JUST A "REGULAR PERSON"?

But there
wasn't.


I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING BACK, JUST MADE STRANGE NOISES WITH MY THROAT.
CROAK
HE INTRODUCED ME TO THE CORPSES OF HIS FAMILY.
HE SAID THAT THE BRAINS OF ORDINARY HUMANS WERE UNABLE TO HANDLE THE ENORMITY OF HER EXISTENCE.
AND AS A RESULT THIS HAPPENED.
TO THE PEOPLE MOST IMPORTANT TO HIM.
AND HE WANTED TO INTRODUCE HER
THAT HE GOT A GIRLFRIEND TODAY
HE THEN STARTED TO GO ON ABOUT SOMETHING EVEN WEIRDER,
AND THEN
BUT AT LEAST YOU'RE ALIVE
IT'S A SHAME YOU JUST MISSED HER,


ACTUALLY, MY LITTLE SISTER ISN'T COMPLETELY DEAD YET.
I'M GUESSING THAT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE SHE LOST CONSCIOUSNESS THE INSTANT SHE SAW HER.
SHE ISN'T ABLE TO BREATHE BY HERSELF SO I'M SUPPLYING HER ENERGY IN THE MEANTIME, BUT I GUESS THAT MEANS SHE'S COMPLETELY BRAIN-DEAD.
THOUGH SINCE IT WAS A SORT OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE HER HEART'S PROBABLY GOING TO STOP.


HEY, APP-ARE-KUN,
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
EH?
AM-BU-LANCE


Call a fucking ambulance!!

She's still alive!
Try and save her!
She's your own sister!!
...I SEE
ALL RIGHT,
I GOT IT.

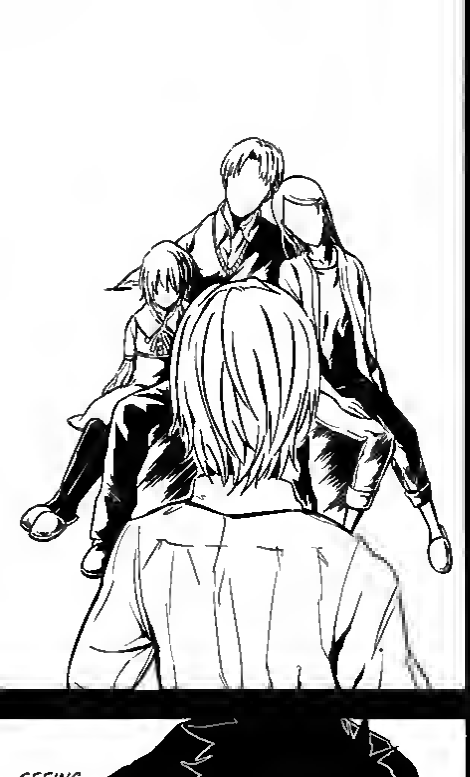
Were ...
you trying
PANT
PANT
PANT
HUH?

I WONDER
TO FUCKING KILL HER?
AT WHAT PERCENTAGE OF REMAINING BRAIN CELLS LEFT IS THERE STILL "CONSCIOUSNESS"?
WHERE IS THE BORDER BETWEEN JUST A BUNCH OF CELLS AND MY SISTER?
!?
IS SHE SUFFERING RIGHT NOW?
OR MAYBE SHE CAN'T EVEN REGISTER THAT SHE'S SUFFERING?
NO ONE CAN JUST DECIDE THAT FOR HER
BECAUSE ONLY SHE KNOWS,
BUT SHE CAN'T ANSWER EVEN IF YOU ASKED.

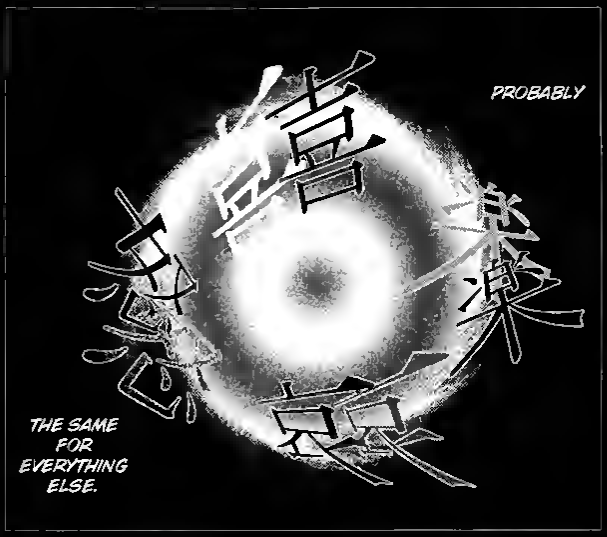
Don't fo...
TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR HER AS HER OLDER BROTHER.
THAT'S WHY I DECIDED ON MY OWN
AND I WAS THE ONE ASKING YOU FOR ADVICE
SORRY ABOUT THAT, APPARE-KUN

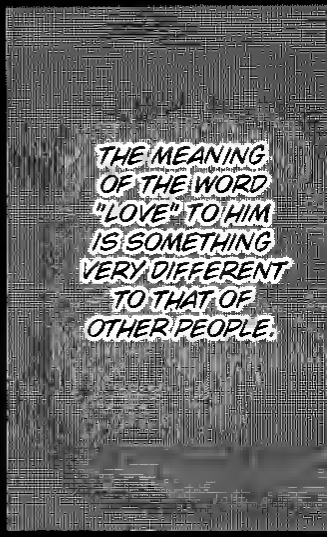
IT WAS LIKE A NIGHTMARE.
STRANGER LIKE ME TRYING TO SAVE A PERSON
BY KILLING THEIR BROTHER?
CORPSES,
A BLOOD RED MOON,
I DON'T GET IT.
I DON'T GET IT.
I DON'T GET IT.
I DON'T GET IT.
STOP IT.
I DON'T GET IT.
I DON'T-
PLEASE
K YOU
PLEASE, STOP IT.
I DON'T GET IT.

WHY
Ah...
WOULD YOU THROW HER AWAY?
aaaaa
aaaa
Aaa
ahhh



BASICALLY, HE'S BROKEN.


PROBABLY
THE SAME FOR EVERYTHING ELSE.


THE MEANING OF THE WORD "LOVE" TO HIM IS SOMETHING VERY DIFFERENT TO THAT OF OTHER PEOPLE.

IN OTHER WORDS,

COMMUNICATING WITH HIM IS JUST EXCHANGING WORDS. THE MEANING BEHIND THOSE WORDS IS LOST.
I NOW FULLY UNDERSTAND THE EVIL I COULD SENSE LURKING BEHIND THE POWER I FELT WHEN I FIRST MET HIM.

THERE IS NO MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING.

I SWORE THE NEXT TIME HE SHOWED HIS FACE
IF I EVER NEEDED TO TELL HIM SOMETHING AS DIRECTLY AS I COULD...
I WOULD MESS HIM UP REAL BAD.
EVEN IF YOU WON'T LEND ME YOUR POWER, THAT'S WHAT I'M GOING TO DO.
That's why

!?
I'm telling you to stop.

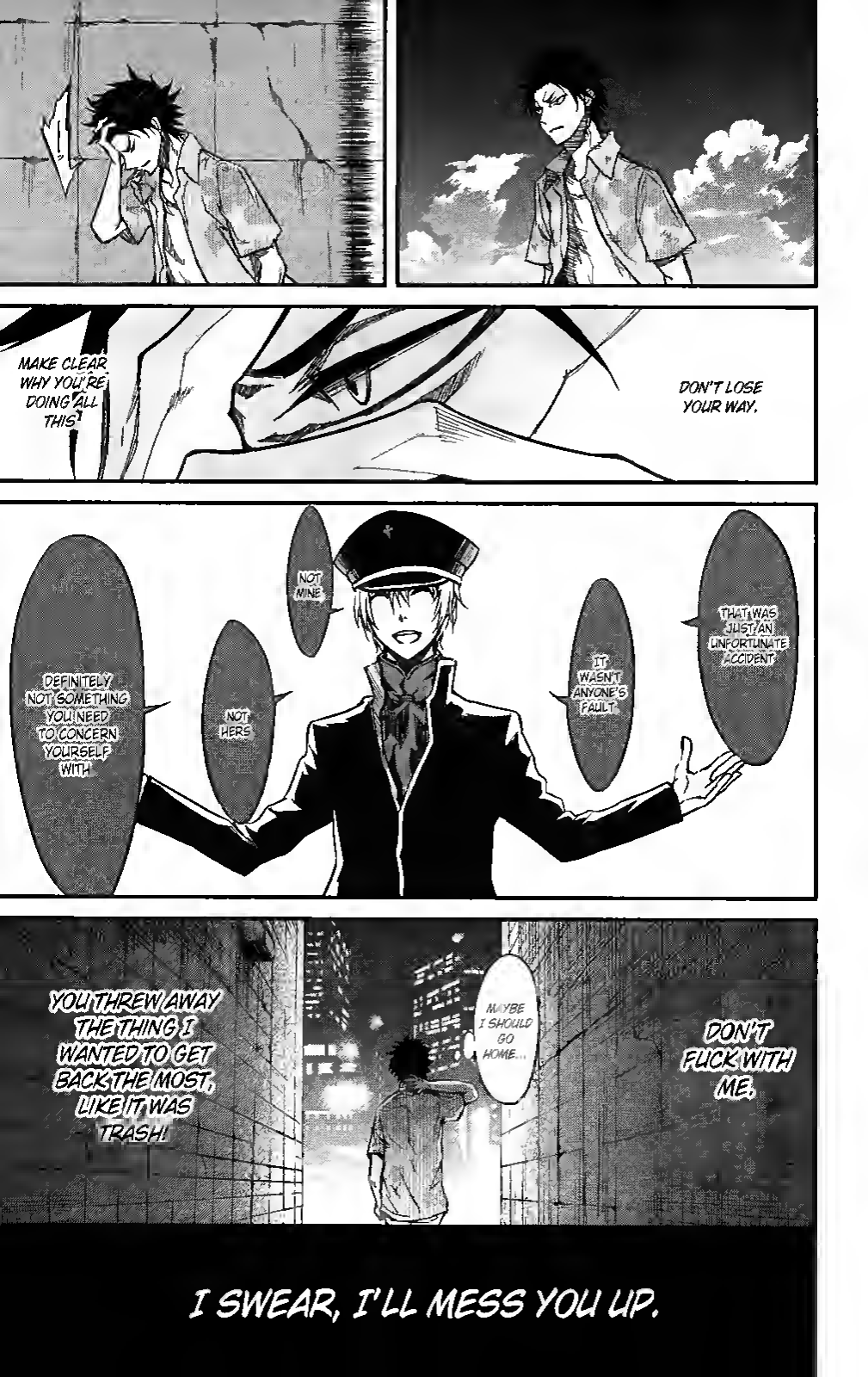
Listen, Amaharu.
At the very least I can deduce that Haioka Anne is in no threat of being harmed.
How can you...
If you think about the events that transpired during her kidnapping it makes sense.
The clerks at the store and passerby walking on the footpath were all killed,
but the students who were in the same room as Haioka Anne were just rendered unconscious
In other words, in order to capture Haioka Anne without harming her, they had to restrain their power.
Of course, I know this is no time to be overly optimistic.
On top of that
I want to have your agreement on two things.

I'd like to have access to all your memories regarding Oukougyoku.
and after that at least one and a half hours for me to come up with countermeasures.
That's how ridiculously strong he is.
As for the one residing within him, we don't even know.
Right now we don't even have a single chance of winning

But if there is even 1% of a chance, there is some worth in taking it.
This I know.
I want time to bring out that one percent.
Amaharu.

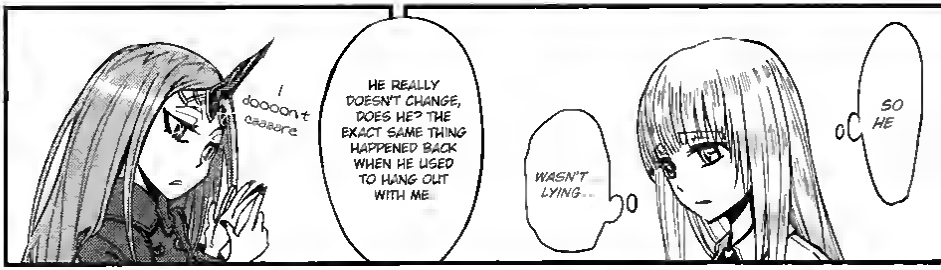
...ALL RIGHT.
AM I RETARDED... THROWING MY LIFE AWAY LIKE THAT WOULD'VE JUST DRAGGED HIM ALONG WITH ME.
I HAD INTENDED NOT TO RELY ON HIS POWER AT ALL...
CALM DOWN, AMAHARU.
FUCK-ING HELL...
I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU.
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING WRONG WITH ME.
Amaharu.

When you fought against another of my kind in order to save Haloka Anne
you were surprisingly strong.
If you were able to release that same level of power today
you probably could've messed up that (unique) life form real bad.
You're still not too late to do that, you know?
SHUT UP.

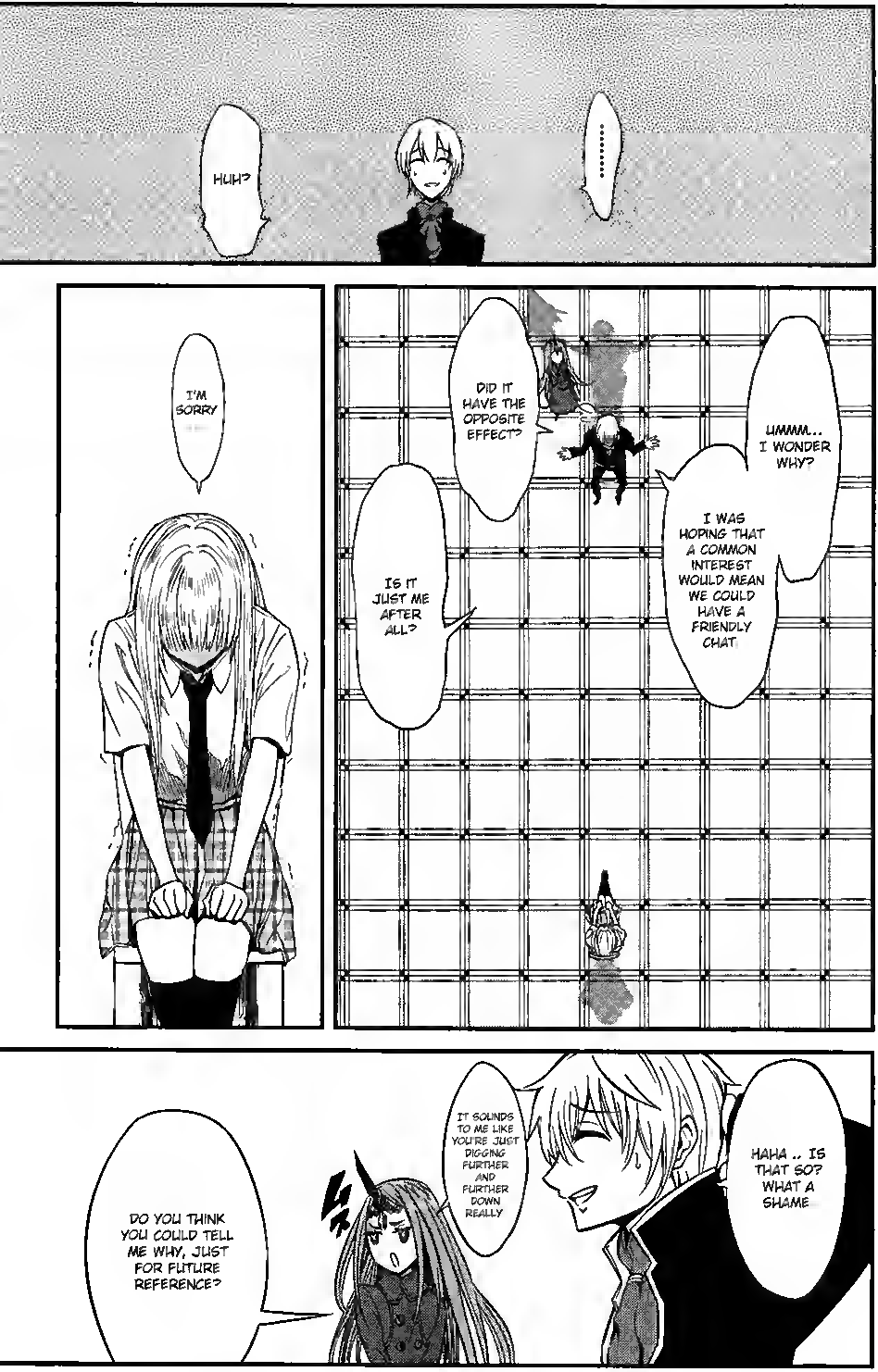

MAKE CLEAR WHY YOU'RE DOING ALL THIS.
DON'T LOSE YOUR WAY.
DEFINITELY NOT SOMETHING YOU NEED TO CONCERN YOURSELF WITH
NOT HERS
NOT MINE
IT WASN'T ANYONE'S FAULT.
THAT WAS JUST AN UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT
YOU THREW AWAY THE THING I WANTED TO GET BACK THE MOST, LIKE IT WAS TRASH!
MAYBE I SHOULD GO HOME...
DON'T FUCK WITH ME.
I SWEAR, I'LL MESS YOU UP.

EVEN LESS THAN SHIT!
YOU'RE NOTHING BUT SHIT, OUKOUGYOKU.
I WON'T GIVE UP JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE A FREAK!

APPARE-KUN GOT MISTAKENLY ARRESTED AGAIN!? NO WAY!
AHAHAH AHAH


I doooon't aaaare
HE REALLY DOESN'T CHANGE, DOES HE? THE EXACT SAME THING HAPPENED BACK WHEN HE USED TO HANG OUT WITH ME.
WASN'T LYING...
SO HE

REALLY DOES LOVE APPARE-KUN.
THIS PERSON


HUH?
.....
I'M SORRY
DID IT HAVE THE OPPOSITE EFFECT?
UMMM... I WONDER WHY?
I WAS HOPING THAT A COMMON INTEREST WOULD MEAN WE COULD HAVE A FRIENDLY CHAT
IS IT JUST ME AFTER ALL?
HAHA .. IS THAT SO? WHAT A SHAME
IT SOUNDS TO ME LIKE YOU'RE JUST DIGGING FURTHER AND FURTHER DOWN REALLY
DO YOU THINK YOU COULD TELL ME WHY, JUST FOR FUTURE REFERENCE?

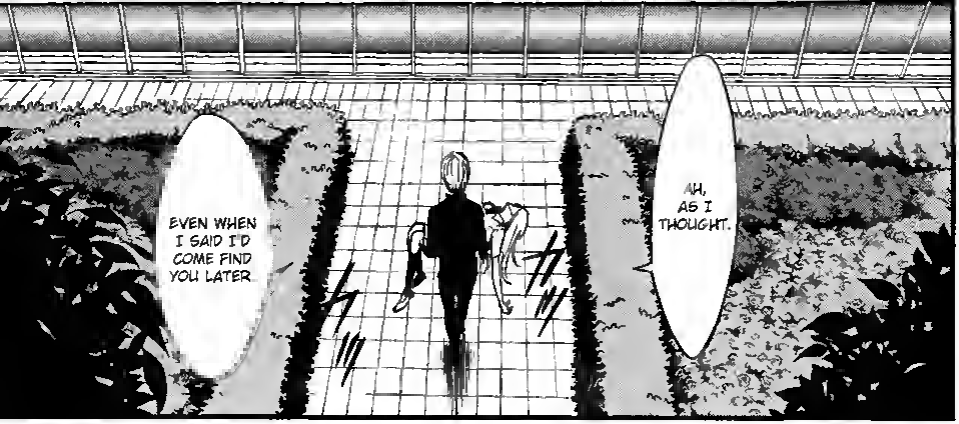
...IT'S BE-CAUSE
YOU'RE
SOMEONE WHO'S TRYING...
TO KILL... MY FRIEND...
... TO BE SEEN RIGHT THROUGH SIMPLY BASED ON INTUITION... CAN'T BE HELPED.
PLEASE
DON'T KILL APPARE-KUN...!

No!
I MEAN, THAT'S THE SORT OF-
THOUGH REALLY IT WOULDN'T BE SURPRISING IF I WERE TO GET KILLED INSTEAD.
I CAN'T PROMISE THAT WON'T HAPPEN
APPARE-KUN
ISN'T LIKE THAT.
HE ISN'T A PERSON WHO
WOULD DO THAT!!
YOU'RE WRONG.
BUT JUST RECENTLY
HE HAS BECOME RATHER CALM.
APPARE-KUN ALWAYS SEEMS TO BE IN A FOUL MOOD... AS ARE HIS WORDS... CAN BE QUITE BLUNT...

IT MIGHT BE ONLY FOR SHORT PERIODS NOW.
UNTIL IT BECOMES HOW HE NORMALLY IS.
THAT WILL GROW
BUT I'M SURE AS TIME GOES ON
SO DON'T GET ANY CLOSER TO APPARE-KUN!

AS PROMISED I WON'T KILL YOU.
!?
SORRY FOR FORCING YOU LIKE THIS.
THANKS
YEP! COOL STORY!
TIME TO SLEEP NOW.
Wai...
PLEASE
APPARE-KUN,
DON'T COME SAVE ME.

HM?
IS THAT ...


EVEN WHEN I SAID I'D COME FIND YOU LATER
AH, AS I THOUGHT.

YOU REALLY ARE IMPATIENT, AREN'T YOU?

HOW'D YOU KNOW I WAS HERE?
HEY!
You've always liked
climbing on top of something.
WELL, IT'S SORT OF NOT GOING AS I HAD INTENDED, BUT LET ME WELCOME YOU.
WHAT SHOULD WE PLAY?
AHAH AHAHA
YEAH, I GUESS SO.

PLAY?
I DIDN'T COME HERE TO DO THAT...
Yeah.
LET'S GO.
.....

We'll settle it in one attack !!
HMM
SO THAT'S KAZAMI AMAHARU?
WHAT THE HECK
HE'S SUPER WEAK!

SKYBLUE

WHY IS HE WEARING A SCHOOL UNIFORM?
And then,
It's summer
Appare- kun you see-